

FISCAL NOTE
SB 1096 - HB 1549

April 4, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a written policy to govern teacher certification procedures for persons not certified by the state. Persons being certified would be required to take an examination and complete a one-year internship in a district. Candidates would be required to qualify for primary or secondary internships by holding subject-area degrees from accredited colleges. The State Board would then be required to issue certificates based on the candidates' academic knowledge, examination results, communication skills, and the academic achievement of their pupils.

The State Board of Education is to report certificates issued under this program to the Commissioner of Education, and the candidates certified in this manner must meet all provisions related to teachers except those requiring a state license. Local boards that did not oversee the candidate would be allowed to accept these certificates to teach in their district. Districts must present their candidates to the state certification board for full certification, and the state must certify those presented if they have met the requirements of the act. The state board is then required to review candidate submissions every three years to determine effectiveness and quality of individual district programs.

Further, the bill allows the state board to issue licenses to persons who have not gone through teacher education programs but who have done work in other colleges or who have non-college work experience that is equivalent to or better than the teacher education programs. The state board would be allowed to issue licenses to persons with less than four years of general, technical, and/or professional training beyond high school if they qualify for a certificate under the act. A license may be granted to a person who has not graduated from an approved teacher education program but who has completed the provisions under the act.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$12,500

Decrease State Expenditures - Not Significant

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant 1st Year

Exceeds \$100,000 2nd Year/Permissive

Assumptions:

- The State Board of Education could incur costs to operate a Task Force of the Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification that would be charged with forming a written policy to be adopted by the State Board. The Task Force would be composed of approximately 20 members and would meet four times. Such cost would include travel, lodging and meals and is estimated to be approximately \$12,500 per year.

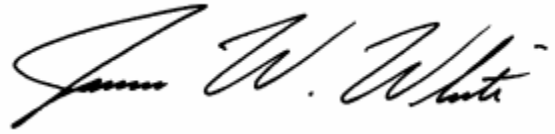
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- Assumes the State Board would not incur costs to issue certificates beyond the development of policy. Assumes local districts would certify that candidates meet the provisions of the State Board policy and would certify them locally, with State Board approval of those presented for certification by individual district programs.
- The State Board could incur costs to review candidate submissions every three years to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of district programs. Such costs would depend on the number of districts choosing to hire such candidates and present them for certification; however, these costs would not take place until the second year of implementation after board policies are adopted. The number of future teachers who would opt for certification under this bill rather than completing a preparation program for certification cannot be determined; however, such cost to the State Board is estimated to be not significant.
- Assumes no fiscal impact on the Department of Education, since it appears that the state Teacher Licensing Office would not be responsible for actually issuing licenses under the bill.
- If local school districts implement district-level programs for persons under the bill, school districts could incur costs of evaluating candidate's academic knowledge, examination results, communication skills, and academic achievement of his or her pupils during the year-long internship. Districts could also incur costs if they chose to pay for candidates to take an examination. Districts could incur costs to issue certificates, if the bill is interpreted to mean local certification. *Assumes that any local costs would not take effect until the second year of implementation after board policy is adopted*; therefore, it is estimated that any costs to the local school districts in the first year to implement this system would be not significant.

For information purposes, several Tennessee higher education institutions and the Department of Education are already working together to provide an alternative licensure (*Alternative C* license) which appears to meet the requirements set out by this bill (Tennessee also offers *Alternative A* and *Alternative E* licenses). In addition, the State Board of Education adopted a revised Alternative Preparation for Licensure Policy on August 23, 2003. The Department of Education indicates that the state of Kentucky has an internship program similar to the one set out by the provisions of this bill. The cost of that program in the first year was a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$15,000,000, and a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$5,000,000 for the first and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director